

Virginia Normal and Industrial Institute, Petersburg, Va.

Rev. J. H. Johnston, President

THE Virginia Normal and Industrial Institute was founded by act of the General Assembly, March 6, 1882, for the higher education of the Negro youth of the state, with special reference to the training of teachers.

The act appropriated \$100,000 for the purchase of a site and erection of suitable buildings. This sum being inadequate for the work laid out by the architect, was increased by the legislature from time to time, until \$157,700 had been spent on the original design. The annuity was made \$20,000, but this, after five years, was reduced to \$15,000.

The school was opened October, 1883, with three departments, academic, normal, and preparatory, which were in successful operation until 1902. Up to this time 50 college and 424 normal graduates had been sent out. The enrollment of the school was then 316.

In 1902 a new Board of Visitors was appointed and the act of incorporation was amended so as to give special prominence to industrial training to the exclusion of the college course. Cooking, sewing, basketry, raffia work, chair caning, manual training in wood, and practical agriculture are now taught. While these industries were added, no provision was made for their extension until 1908, when the annuity was raised to its original sum and \$14,000 was given by the General Assembly for a farm, improvements, and drainage. The industrial work has been made possible largely because of money received from the Peabody and Slater Educational Funds. The sums received from these sources are not guaranteed for

any number of years, and even if they were they are by no means sufficient to run the industrial department.

All the 550 students are engaged in industrial work, which takes many more teachers than literary work.

The force of teachers is only eighteen (18) for all departments. Every girl is able to make her own dresses before she leaves the school, and can prepare and serve a meal. The boys are all given practical instruction, not only by the use of textbooks, but by actual work in the fields and dairy. They also take mechanical drawing and learn the use of tools by making many useful articles in the manual training department. While much attention is given to this industrial work, there has been no neglect of the development of the minds of the students, for the faculty realize that no amount of hand training can compensate for the lack of mind and heart training. Mind development is the pivot on which all industrial work turns.

Being a state institution it cannot give any special denominational training, yet every teacher is a Christian and enters heartily into the work of the Sunday-school. All students are expected to attend church services Sunday morning and chapel exercises in the evening. In addition to these, Christian



FACULTY AND CLASS OF 1907, VIRGINIA NORMAL AND INDUSTRIAL INSTITUTE

James Hugo Johnston, Ph.D., is president of the Institute. In 1908, there were 19 teachers and 528 students. The graduates up to 1908 numbered 740, and represented 11 states. The average age of the 528 students in 1908 was nineteen years.